

Salmon-Challis National Forest And Salmon District BLM Fire Crew Briefing Packet

Crew Name(s): _____

Welcome to the Central Idaho Interagency Fire Zone.

This packet is provided to familiarize incoming fire personnel to the area's operational and fire suppression procedures. A briefing to cover this material must be conducted prior to personnel being sent to an incident and conducted by someone with knowledge of the current and recent fire situation and fire behavior occurring in the Central Idaho Fire Zone.

We hope that the information provided here will make your stay safer and more productive.

The briefer should collect and attach the following time-sensitive materials to the packet:

- ☐ *Current fire weather forecast*
- ☐ *Current situation report*
- ☐ *Current resources available in the Central Idaho Initial Attack Zone*
- ☐ *Current Incident Action Plan and/or map (if applicable)*

Briefing Conducted By: _____

Date: _____

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Fire Suppression Policy

- ❖ Implement all fire suppression activities with firefighter, aviation, and public safety as the first priority.
- ❖ Engage strategies and tactics that provide for human safety, minimize cost and resource damage, and are consistent with values being protected.
- ❖ Initial attack aggressively while maintaining safe practices.
- ❖ Restore and rehabilitate resources and improvements lost or damaged by suppression activities.
- ❖ Minimize, and if necessary mitigate, human-induced impacts to resources, natural processes, or improvements attributable to wildland fire activities.
- ❖ Promote public understanding of fire management programs and objectives.
- ❖ Prevent and investigate all unplanned human-caused fires.

Safety

A. Code of Conduct for Fire Suppression

- Firefighter safety comes first every fire every time.
- The Ten Standard Firefighting Orders are firm. We don't break them, we don't bend them.
- All 18 Watch Out Situations must be mitigated before engagement or reengagement of wildland fire suppression activities.
- Every firefighter has the right to know that his or her assignments are safe.
- Every fireline supervisor, every fire manager, and every administrator has the responsibility to confirm that safe practices are known and observed.

B. Personal Protective Equipment

All individuals will wear personal protective clothing and equipment as outlined in the Health and Safety Code Handbook, the Fireline Handbook, and the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (Redbook), while on an incident.

All fireline personnel are required to carry fire shelters during fire suppression operations in a manner in which they are available for immediate use.

C. Work/Rest

Incident Commanders will manage fatigue and ensure firefighters comply with current NWCG 2:1 work/rest policy. Compliance will be documented in the daily record on all fires exceeding one operational period. Documentation will include operational periods and rest time, justifications for exceeding a 16 hour shift, and mitigations imposed to offset excessive shifts (for example, rest extended into the following operational period). The Great Basin Incident Organizer provides an excellent format for documenting work/rest compliance. Resources here on a BLM order should reference the Idaho BLM supplement.

D. Pocket Cards

The Central Idaho Fire Zone has developed a set of three pocket cards. They are intended to help firefighters relate the burning index to the area's potential for fire activity throughout the season and during significant historic fires. Pocket cards identify thresholds of concern or fire behavior "watch-outs." They also identify local factors that effect fire danger and large fire potential. The Central Idaho Fire Zone pocket cards are one each for Fuel Model T and Fuel Model G, and one specific to the Salmon River Breaks.

Fire and Aviation Communications

A. Procedures

Radio transmissions have the following priority:

1. Injuries, medical aid, or emergencies.
2. Aircraft.
3. Reporting new fire starts or existing incidents escaping control/containment.
4. Dispatching fire crews or support of on-going fires.
5. Routine and administrative traffic.

Radio transmissions are to be conducted in clear text only. Keep all transmissions as brief and to the point as possible. Identify the person being called by last name or radio identifier first, followed by your last name or identifier. If you are using someone else's vehicle, use your last name, not their identifier. If you are the IC, your call sign becomes Fire Name IC (ex. Sal IC). When using the Forest Repeat channel, give time for the repeater to open before speaking. When using a repeater, identify which one.

Initial attack will be initiated by Central Idaho Dispatch using the North or South Forest frequencies. Once initiated, Dispatch will provide the IC with a tactical frequency to use for fireline communications. The IC will use the North or South Forest frequency, or Salmon Direct if on a BLM fire, for communications with Dispatch and also to establish communications with aircraft. Once communications with aircraft are established, air-to-ground communications will move to the local air-to-ground frequency (172.400) or the tactical frequency.

B. Frequencies

Salmon-Challis NORTH ZONE

CH	RX	TX	TX Tone	Name
1	172.275	172.275	100.0	North Zone
2	172.275	164.500	103.5	North Rpt
3	170.125	170.125	110.9	FLTFLW
4	170.125	166.5875	123.0	FLTFLWR
5	163.8875	163.8875	131.8	SALMONBLM
6	168.175	164.825	136.5	NZ CALLING
7	168.775	168.775	146.2	SOA
8	168.775	164.9125	156.7	SOA RPT
9	172.400	172.400	167.9	LOCAL AIR
10	163.100	163.100	0.0	WIDE AREA
11	168.350	168.350	0.0	Common Use
12	171.525	171.525	0.0	SCNF TAC
13	169.875	169.875	0.0	South Zone
14	169.875	164.125	0.0	South Rpt

Salmon-Challis SOUTH ZONE

CH	RX	TX	TX Tone	Name
1	169.875	169.875	100.0	South Zone
2	169.875	164.125	103.5	South Rpt
3	170.475	170.475	110.9	MFNet
4	170.475	166.5625	123.0	MFRPT
5	163.8875	163.8875	131.8	SALMONBLM
6	168.175	164.825	136.5	SZ CALLING
7	168.775	168.775	146.2	SOA
8	168.775	164.9125	156.7	SOA RPT
9	172.400	172.400	167.9	LOCAL AIR
10	163.100	163.100	0.0	WIDE AREA
11	168.350	168.350	0.0	Common Use
12	171.525	171.525	0.0	SCNF TAC
13				Programmed
14				As needed

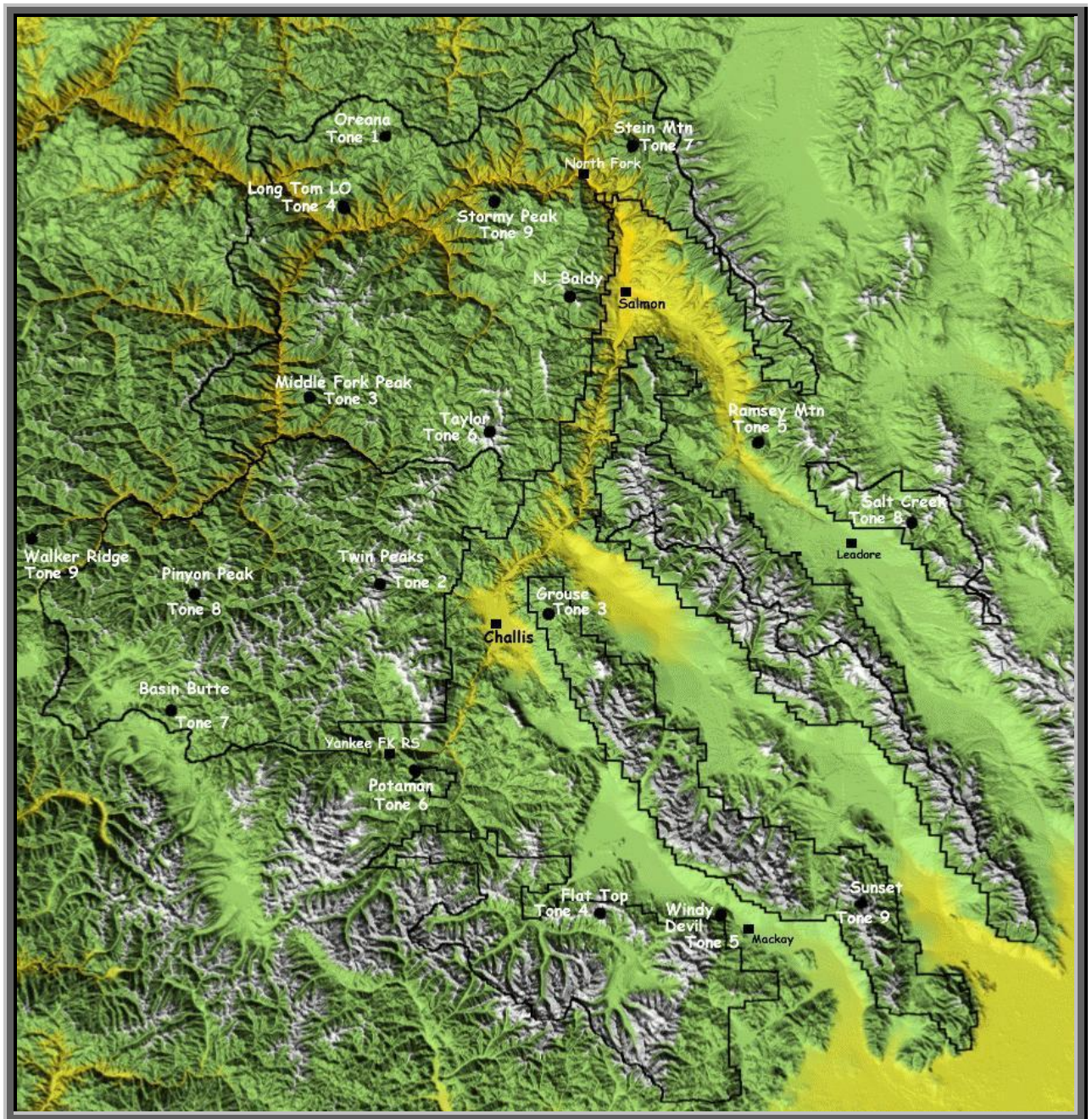
Salmon BLM

Ch	RX Freq		TX FREQ	TONE	Label
1	163.83750	000.0	163.83750	000.0	TAC 1
2	163.17500	000.0	163.17500	107.2	TAC 2
3	164.55000	000.0	164.55000	114.8	TAC 3
4	172.62500	000.0	172.62500	123.0	TAC 4
5	173.86250	000.0	173.86250	131.8	SOA 1
6	173.86250	000.0	172.77500	136.5	SOA RPTR
7	163.10000	000.0	163.10000	146.2	WIDEAREA
8	172.27500	000.0	172.27500	156.7	SCNF N
9	172.27500	000.0	164.50000	167.9	N RPTR
10	168.35000	000.0	168.35000	000.0	CMN USE
11	163.88750	000.0	163.88750	000.0	BLM 1
12	163.88750	000.0	163.05000	000.0	BLM RPTR
13	169.87500	000.0	169.87500	000.0	SCNF S
14	169.87500	000.0	164.12500	000.0	S RPTR
*15	172.40000	000.0	172.40000	000.0	AIR/GND
*16	171.52500	000.0	171.52500	000.0	S-C TAC

Rural Fire Departments

Department	Simplex Frequency
Elk Bend	154.430
Leadore	154.400
Lemhi County	154.430
Mackay	153.980
North Custer	154.860
North Fork	154.385
Sawtooth Valley	153.785
South Custer	153.785
Williams Lake	154.430

C. Repeater Locations and Tones



NORTH ZONE			SOUTH ZONE		
#	TONE	LOCATION	#	TONE	LOCATION
1	100.0	OREANA (after 7/03)	1	100.0	SUMMIT LAKE (after 10/03)
2	103.5		2	103.5	TWIN PEAKS
3	110.9	MIDDLE FORK PEAK	3	110.9	GROUSE PEAK
4	123.0	LONG TOM	4	123.0	FLAT TOP
5	131.8	RAMSEY	5	131.8	WINDY DEVIL
6	136.5	TAYLOR	6	136.5	POTAMAN
7	146.2	STEIN MOUNTAIN	7	146.2	BASIN BUTTE
8	156.7	SALT CREEK / OREANA	8	156.7	PINYON PEAK
9	167.9	STORMY PEAK	9	167.9	WALKER RIDGE/ SUNSET PEAK

Initial Attack

Initial attack forces are made up of the first suppression personnel to arrive at a fire and reinforcements that arrive during the first burning period. The most qualified individual on scene will take control of the incident and identify themselves as the Incident Commander (IC). This will be communicated to dispatch and other personnel on scene and/or responding. Adhere to the following protocol when assigned to initial attack fires:

1. Dispatch to all reported fires will come from Central Idaho Interagency Coordination Center (Central Idaho). You will be given approximate location and any available information on reported conditions and/or specific instructions on where to report if this is a fire not accessible by road.
2. Obey all traffic laws while driving to the fire, staging area, helibase, etc.
3. Notify Central Idaho Dispatch when you are on scene, then contact the IC.
4. The IC will contact all volunteer or other units on scene and establish a command structure.
5. The IC will brief all resources on strategy, tactics, safety zones, escape routes, communications, and expected fire behavior.
6. The IC will complete a fire size-up and a list of all units on scene and relay this information to Dispatch. (See the Great Basin Incident Organizer)
7. IC requests for additional resources or logistical support will be made through Dispatch.
8. If fire complexity increases to a level exceeding the qualifications of the Initial Attack IC, he/she will advise Dispatch and request a more qualified IC along with recommendations for additional resources.
9. All fires will remain staffed until declared controlled or out. The IC, FMO/BLM AFMO, or appropriate Duty Officer will determine continued staffing.

Extended Attack

A wildfire has escaped initial attack when:

- It is not contained by the initial attack resources dispatched to the fire, or
- It will not be contained within the management objectives established for that zone or area, or
- It is not contained within the first operational period and there is no estimate of containment or control.

Hazards

A. Weather

It is common to experience high temperatures in excess of 100 degrees and relative humidities down to 5%. Acclimating to these conditions and drinking plenty of fluids is critical for you to work safely. Alternatively, during late-season fires, temperatures may dip below freezing and wet storms can deposit more than a foot of snow overnight at typical Forest elevations.

Thunderstorms are frequent and intense, producing strong erratic winds and intense lightning during the fire season. Avoid ridge tops, fences or other areas which attract lightning. Seek shelter in a vehicle if conditions warrant. Be prepared for erratic fire behavior, changes in direction and rate of spread when thunderstorms are in your fire area.

B. Steep Slopes and Canyons

The steep slopes and canyons in the area create their own hazards when combined with fire and/or firefighters. These can be separated into two categories: short-term and long-term hazards. Short-term hazards include typical unsound snags, debris dams with rocks and woody materials held in place by duff and downfall that can burn through and release rolling and overhead hazards during the initial stages of a fire. Rollout should be expected with uneven burn patterns and spot fires. Long-term hazards may include sound snags, green trees, debris dams, and larger rocks and logs. In addition, the canyons will funnel winds during the day and contain thermal belts at night.

C. Snags

Snags are prevalent all through the Central Idaho Fire Zone. The continuing drought has made virtually all conifer species in the area vulnerable to insects. This has created large tracts of dead and dying trees. In addition, there are thousands of acres of previously burned forest, capable of sustaining fire again, where every tree is a snag. Both dead and green trees have the potential to burn and become hazards. Be aware, avoid, and communicate the hazard to others. Night operations will be limited in high snag potential areas. Flag hazard trees and communicate their locations to other crew members and crews. Class C fallers are available and can be ordered through Central Idaho Dispatch.

D. Miscellaneous

Poisonous snakes, mostly rattlesnakes, are common. Biting insects, ticks, bees and yellowjackets occur throughout the area.

Mine shafts, cliffs, and large rocks are not uncommon and are often hidden by vegetation. Sandy soils are another hidden hazard. Be alert to the possibility of encountering any of these when driving off-road.

Fuels

The fuels in the Central Idaho Interagency Fire Zone range from grass and sage in the lower elevations to heavy timber types in the higher elevations (including Ponderosa Pine, Lodgepole Pine, Douglas-Fir, and Sub-Alpine Fir. Grasses and needle cast are often the primary carrier of fire; and arrangements can vary from continuous and even during normal rainfall years, to sparse and broken during drought conditions. Brush and jackpot fuels provide higher intensities and spotting potential. In the timber types, individual torching and significant crown runs should be expected during the dry summer conditions. Rapid rates of spread should be expected due to steep slopes and wind. Thermal belts are common mid-slope in river corridors and mountainous terrain. Fire will be active in these areas at night.

Suppression Tactics

Determining the appropriate initial attack strategies and tactics must be based on firefighter and public safety, suppression objectives, values at risk, current and predicted fire behavior, weather, and available resources. Tactical assignments will not be initiated or continued without adherence to LCES, the Risk Management Process, and the Fire Orders; and mitigation of any of the 18 Watch Outs.

A. Direct Attack

On fires with low spread rates, good access, and lower intensities, direct attack will be utilized. This is accomplished with engines, hand crews, and/or helicopter modules using wet line, hand line, and cold trailing to secure the perimeter, followed by quality mop-up. Direct attack must start from an anchor point.

B. Indirect Attack

Indirect attack is the primary tactic on fires with high intensities, poor engine access, and heavier fuel loadings; or when direct attack is not otherwise possible or practical. Burnout operations commonly utilize existing barriers, wet line, or constructed control line. Equipment to construct line may be utilized, if conditions warrant, and with Line

Officer or Resource Advisor approval. Indirect attack must also start with an anchor point.

C. MIST

Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) incorporates a variety of techniques to minimize fire suppression impacts on the land. The key challenge is to be able to select the suppression tactics that are appropriate given the fire's probable or potential behavior, and to assure that planned actions will remain effective over the expected duration of the fire. Providing for firefighter and public safety will be prioritized over the use of MIST in all cases.

Some examples of MIST during the fire lining phase are to:

- Use cold-trail and/or wet line when appropriate.
- If constructing line, use only the width and depth necessary to stop fire spread.
- Minimize bucking and cutting of trees. An alternative to felling may be to allow trees and snags to burn themselves out, while ensuring and communicating adequate safety measures to those affected. If burning trees and snags pose a threat to firefighter safety or of spreading fire brands, extinguish them with water and/or dirt if possible.

During the mop-up phase:

- Restrict spading to hot areas near the line or potential reburn areas only.
- Refrain from making boneyards and return partially burned fuels to their natural arrangements.
- Use blivets, pumpkins, and fold-a-tanks to avoid impacts to streams and riparian areas.
- Provide fuel containment barriers and designated filling areas away from streams.

While in camp, use Leave-No-Trace camping techniques:

- Select impact-resistant sites, such as rocky or sandy soils.
- Do not clear vegetation or trench to create bedding sites.
- Pack out all garbage.
- Use toilets when provided. Otherwise dig a cathole 6-8" deep and at least 200 feet from water.
- Carry water and bathe away from lakes and streams.

Special Concerns

A. Human-Caused Fires

All wildland fires will be investigated to determine origin and cause. On fires determined to be human-caused or of unknown cause (no evidence of lightning and in an area accessible to the public), the IC will make every effort to protect the area of origin and will notify Central Idaho Dispatch of the need for a fire investigator.

B. Private Land and Structure Fires

The SCNF and local BLM have responsibility for suppression of wildland fires adjacent to or intermingled with State and private lands. Our primary responsibility is to suppress wildfire before it reaches private structures. We may assist local fire departments in exterior structure protection, when requested. Structure fire suppression, including exterior and interior actions, are the responsibility of local fire departments. All personnel shall limit fire suppression actions to exterior structure protection measures. This includes actions such as foam or water application to exterior surfaces of buildings and surrounding fuels, fuel removal, and burning out around buildings.

C. Vehicle and Dump Fires

Do not engage in direct attack of vehicle or dump fires on National Forest or BLM administered lands unless action is necessary to protect life or prevent the spread of fire to the wildlands. Do not take action unless you can do so safely.

D. Hazardous Materials

On incidents involving hazardous materials (Hazmat), limit actions to emergency measures necessary for the immediate protection of yourself and the public. Do not do more than you are trained to (ie. Hazmat Aware or Hazmat First Responder Operational). If possible, isolate the scene and relay to Dispatch any pertinent information such as placard description, ID number, spill size, etc.

Behavior

It is important to maintain the highest professional standards while on fires, in fire camp, or in town. Mutual respect for your crewmembers, other crewmembers, and the public is key for creating the high standards of conduct we ask you to maintain.

Using non-prescription drugs or alcohol at an incident, or on government owned or leased property; or transporting such items in a government provided vehicle is prohibited conduct. During off-incident periods, personnel are responsible for proper conduct and

fitness for duty. Illegal actions or abuse resulting in unfitness for duty will not be tolerated.

Harassment, including racial discrimination and sexual harassment is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Conduct with the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment is prohibited.

Anyone determined to be in violation of prohibited behavior will be dealt with severely. An AD employee will be terminated immediately. A permanent or temporary employee will be placed on administrative leave and returned home. The violation will be documented and appropriate action taken at the home unit. Appropriate action may include termination of employment.

Condoning misconduct by not intervening or failing to report it may jeopardize the safety of your crew and others, and may result in disciplinary action.

Supplemental Material

The following items should accompany this briefing as attached appendices:

- Organization and phone list
- Pocket Cards for each supervisor
- Forest and/or BLM Maps
- Challis and Salmon City maps
- Restaurants and Motels List
- Incident Organizers for each IC

Briefing Checklist

Suppression Crew In-Briefing	Date: _____	Conducted By: _____
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Resources:

Crew/Engine # _____ Names _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Assigned to _____ Lodging _____ After Hour Phone# _____ Meal Arrangements _____ Cell # _____ Notes: _____
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Organization, Protection Boundaries, Stations, & Support Facilities:

<input type="checkbox"/> UCSC BLM (SAD), Salmon Challis National Forest (SCF) <input type="checkbox"/> Forest/BLM Offices, Fire Warehouse, CIC Dispatch Center, expanded dispatch <input type="checkbox"/> Host Unit Facilities

Fuels, Terrain, Fire Behavior, & Weather Conditions:

<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel types and conditions – Timber, Brush, Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Terrain Influences – River Breaks, Steep Slopes, Canyons, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Behavior – See attached NFDRS Pocket Cards, discuss current fire behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Fire weather forecast and trend <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Loading
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Dispatch Coordination/Responses, Suppression Tactics, & Crew Configuration:

<input type="checkbox"/> IC or immediate supervisor known <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment clear and understood <input type="checkbox"/> Communications: radio frequencies, phone numbers, off-shift contact method arranged w/ Dispatch <input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch procedures, tone outs, coordination with Dispatch & Supervisors understood <input type="checkbox"/> Suppression Tactics – Direct/Mobile, Indirect, Air Support, Initial Attack, Extended Attack, MIST <input type="checkbox"/> Other resources available for IA <input type="checkbox"/> Local Fire/Incident Activities

Administration:

<input type="checkbox"/> Redcards reviewed and personnel are qualified <input type="checkbox"/> Crew manifest turned in to Dispatch <input type="checkbox"/> Work Rest guideline, 2:1 work/rest, day-off requirements; Last Day Off - _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Processing for Lodging - _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Processing for Meals - _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Time & Attendance _____ Crew Time Reports _____ Home Unit Fax. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Contact & Coordination – Purchasing Agent, Expanded Dispatch, Duty Officers <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Telephones, Fax Machines, etc.
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Safety:

<input type="checkbox"/> Coordination with fire dispatch, crew/fire overhead, Fire Departments, etc <input type="checkbox"/> PPE – On & In Place <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Orders, LCES, Watch-out Situations, Red Flag Warnings/weather alerts <input type="checkbox"/> Potential Hazards discussed <input type="checkbox"/> No short-cuts on safety

Questions or Concerns?

Briefing Conducted By: _____ Briefing Conducted To: _____
(signature)

(This form should be filed with host unit for documentation purposes.)